

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 7, 9 – 26, 28 – 47, 49 – 68, and 70 – 94 remain in the present application. Claims 8, 27, 48, and 69 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 20, 23, 26, 32, 34, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 67, 91, and 92 have been amended. New claims 93 and 94 have been added.

Claim Objections

With respect to Detailed Action Items 4 - 6:

Claims 2 and 23, 26, 32, 34, 39, 40, 43, 44, and 68-92 stand objected to because of informalities. The Examiner states:

“In claim 2, lines 2 and 3, ‘said rudder control system’ has no clear antecedent.”

“In claim 23, line 2 ‘said damping torque command signal’ has no clear antecedent.”

“In claim 26, last line ‘said variable steering ratio signal’ has no clear antecedent.”

“In claim 32 ‘said position command signal’ of the next to the last line has no clear antecedent.”

“In claim 34, lines 2 and 3, ‘said rudder control unit’ and ‘said position command signal’ have no clear antecedents.”

“In claim 38, line 1 ‘The storage medium’ has no clear antecedent. - A storage medium - is suggested.”

“In claim 39, line 1 ‘The computer data signal’ has no clear antecedent. - A computer data signal - is suggested.”

“In claim 40, line 9 a comma should be inserted after ‘signal’.”

“In claim 43, lines 2 and 3 ‘said rudder control system’ has no clear antecedent.”

“In claim 44, line 2 a comma should be inserted after ‘signal’.”

“In claims 68-90, all of which now depend from claim 67 directly or indirectly, ‘The method for steering a watercraft’ of line 1 should be changed to - The method for directing a watercraft’ as is claimed in line 1 of claim 67.”

“In claim 91, line 1 ‘The storage medium’ should be changed to - A storage medium-.”

“In claim 92, line 1 ‘The computer data signal’ should be changed to - A computer data signal-.”

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s observations and have amended Claims 2 and 23, 26, 32, 34, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, and 67, 91 and 92, accordingly to address the Examiner’s concerns. Claims 23, 26, 32, and 34 have been amended to correct their dependency.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21, 28, 31, 38 - 41, 43, 44, 52 - 54, 57, 58, 67, 68, 70, 71, 77, 78, 81, 91 and 92 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Andonian et al., U.S. Patent No, 2002/0079155A1.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 8 (which has been cancelled), which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 9, 10, 13, and 14 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 27 (which has been cancelled), which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 20 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 21, 28, and 31 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 38 is directed to a storage medium and is similar in scope to method claim 20, whereby it has been amended to include limitations of claim 27 (which has been cancelled), which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 38 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 39 is directed to a computer data signal and is similar in scope to method claim 20, whereby it has been amended to include limitations of claim 27 (which has been cancelled), which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 39 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 40 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 48 (which has been cancelled), which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 40 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 52 - 54, 57, and 58 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 67 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 69 (which has been cancelled), which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 67 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 68, 70, 71, 77, 78, and 81 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 91 is directed to a storage medium and is similar in scope to method claim 67, whereby it has been amended to include limitations of claim 69 (which has been cancelled), which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 91 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 92 is directed to a computer data signal and is similar in scope to method claim 67, whereby it has been amended to include limitations of claim 69 (which has been cancelled), which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 92 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21, 28, 31, 38 - 41, 43, 44, 52 - 54, 57, 58, 67, 68, 70, 71, 77, 78, 81, 91 and 92 as amended are not anticipated by Andonian et al. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Indication that claims 3 - 8, 11, 12, 15 - 19, 22 - 27, 29, 30, 32 - 37, 42, 45 - 51, 55, 56, 59 - 66, 69, 72 - 76, 79, 80, and 82 - 90 contain allowable subject matter is hereby recognized and appreciated. Claims 8, 27, 48, and 69 have been cancelled and the limitations thereof have been incorporated into independent claims as set forth above.

Accordingly, as the cited references in the Office Action neither anticipate nor render obvious that which the applicant deems to be the invention, it is respectfully requested that claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21, 28, 31, 38 - 41, 43, 44, 52 - 54, 57, 58, 67, 68, 70, 71, 77, 78, 81, 91 and 92 - 94 be passed to issue.


It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully Submitted,

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